

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A forum monitoring device allows an agent to monitor the traffic in a computer-mediated discussion. When the agent determines that there is a significant degree of traffic on a particular topic, or other predetermined rules are satisfied, the agent proposes to the contributors of messages on that topic that a new discussion forum, for example, a new discussion list, be created. If any of the contributors agrees to this suggestion, a new discussion forum, or child forum, is created by the agent. The agent and the contributors are then automatically subscribed to the child forum, and an invitation to join the new forum is sent optionally to the full membership of the parent forum plus any other recipients of postings on the topic.

09747303-112200